IN THE CLAIMS:

Please amend claims 1 and 4 as follows:

1. (Amended) A semi conductor-laser excited solid state laser apparatus comprising:

a semiconductor laser unit including a first resonator; and

a solid-state laser element which emits laser light in response to excitation light from said semiconductor laser unit;

wherein said first resonator has a length of at least 0.8 mm, with said first resonator length being dependent upon a characteristic of said solid state laser element.

4. (Amended) A semi conductor-laser excited solid state laser apparatus, comprising:

a semiconductor laser unit including a first resonator having a length of at least 0.8 mm;

a solid-state laser element which emits laser light in response to excitation light from said semiconductor laser unit.

a second resonator having a second resonator length, wherein said second resonator includes said solid state laser element and a mirror arranged outside of said solid state laser element, with said first resonator length being independent of said second resonator length; and

a wavelength conversion element arranged in said second resonator, which generates a second harmonic wave.

Please add the following new claims 7 – 20:

7. (New) A semi conductor-laser excited solid state laser apparatus as claimed in claim 1 wherein said first resonator length is dependent upon an absorption band of said solid-state laser element.

8. (New) A semi conductor-laser excited solid state laser apparatus as claimed in claim 1 wherein said solid state laser element is a crystal doped with a highly reactive rare earth metal.

9. (New) A semi conductor-laser excited solid state laser apparatus as claimed in claim 1 wherein said solid state laser element is a neodymium doped crystal.

10. (New) A semi conductor-laser excited solid state laser apparatus as claimed in claim 1 wherein said solid state laser element is a YLF crystal.

11. (New) A semi conductor-laser excited solid state laser apparatus as claimed in claim 1 wherein said solid-state laser element is a component of a Fabry-Perot solid state laser resonator.

12. (New) A semi conductor-laser excited solid state laser apparatus as claimed in claim 1 wherein said first resonator length is selected to cause a wavelength of said excitation light to remain within an absorption band of said solid state laser element.

13. (New) A semiconductor laser excited solid state laser apparatus as claimed in claim 1 wherein a wavelength of said excitation light is independent of a driving current of said semiconductor laser unit.

14. (New) A semi conductor-laser excited solid state laser apparatus as claimed in claim 4 wherein said first resonator length is selected based upon an absorption band of said solid-state laser element.